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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BANGKOK 007460

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DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/MLS AND EAP/CM
OSD FOR OSD/ISA (CHINA AND THAILAND)
PACOM FOR FPA HUSO

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MASS](#) [MARR](#) [CH](#) [TH](#)

SUBJECT: CHINESE EMBASSY WANTS TO BUILD LINKS WITH U.S.
EMBASSY IN BANGKOK

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Alexander A. Arvizu. Reason 1.4
(a and d)

11. (C) Summary. As part of our ongoing effort to follow China's growing influence in Thailand, the Ambassador hosted a reception on December 1 for the PRC Embassy at the Residence. Chinese Ambassador Zhang Jiuhan called for greater dialogue between the U.S. and China on a wide variety of issues and endorsed more frequent contact between the two embassies. Zhang will host a reception for the U.S. Embassy during Chinese New Year. The Chinese Defense Attache was extremely well-briefed on recent exchanges between senior U.S. and Chinese military officials and suggested that Beijing would welcome bilateral cooperation on maritime security, disaster prevention and PKO training in Southeast Asia. The Chinese DCM is slated to be the PRC's next Ambassador to Laos. End Summary.

REGULAR GET TOGETHER

12. (C) As part of post's effort to monitor more closely PRC relations with Thailand and ASEAN, the Ambassador hosted a reception for 23 members of the Chinese Embassy on December 1 at the Residence. Chinese Ambassador Zhang Jiuhan and Defense Attache, Senior Colonel An Zuoshan, were the senior Chinese present. Ambassador Zhang made it clear that he welcomes the opportunity to build a relationship with the Embassy and suggested that there are a number of issues in Thailand that lend themselves to cooperation between the United States and China. Beyond Avian Flu and counter narcotics, Zhang noted that both countries have an interest in maritime security. Zhang, a former DG for the PRC MFA's Asia Department, suggested that Thailand provides a convenient venue to discuss regional issues as well. Of note, neither Zhang nor An mentioned our differences over Taiwan.

PRC DEFENSE ATTACHE SUGGESTS GREATER MIL MIL COOPERATION
SOUGHT BY BEIJING

13. (C) Senior Colonel An (a Brigadier equivalent) was extremely well briefed on recent high-level visits by U.S. defense officials to Beijing. He said that the highlights of Secretary Rumsfeld's October meeting with PRC Defense

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Minister General Cao Gangchuan had been widely circulated within the PLA and that China was sincere in its desire to find areas of mutual interest and cooperation. An was also knowledgeable about PACOM Commander ADM Fallon's recent trip to Beijing during which Fallon called for greater transparency within the PLA. An told PolOff that we must work together to avoid future crises such as the Belgrade Embassy bombing and the EP-3 incident. "It is our job in the field to find ways to build trust," he said.

14. (C) An served as the Chinese Defense Attache in Kyrgyzstan in the late 1990's, during which he shaped a number of counter terrorism programs under the aegis of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. He highlighted Sino-U.S. cooperation in counter terrorism as a major factor in improving bilateral relations. He suggested that China was interested in building on that cooperation in Southeast Asia by jointly looking at maritime security issues. He also mentioned disaster relief preparation and peace keeping training as other areas worth exploring together.

CHINESE DCM TO BE NEW AMBASSADOR TO LAOS

15. (C) PRC DCM Pan Guangxue was unable to attend the reception. Nonetheless, his staff informed us that Pan is to be the PRC's next Ambassador to Laos. Previously, Pan told us about his command of the Lao language and his having served as former President Jiang Zemin's interpreter on trips to Vientiane.

BIO NOTES

16. (C) Ambassador Zhang Jiuhan was born in 1947 in Guangxi. He is married to Tang Lizhen, a former Education Ministry official. They have one son. Zhang speaks

excellent Thai and passable English. He has previously served as DG for the Asian Department at the PRC MFA and as Ambassador to Singapore and Nepal. He is purported to be a protege of former Vice-Premier Qian Qichen. Senior Colonel An Zuoshan was born in 1950 in Jilin. He is married to Wang Ling. They have a 28 year old married daughter. An speaks excellent Russian and good English. He is an expert on counter terrorism and Central Asia. Engaging, intelligent and well-informed, An is a vast improvement over the previous Chinese DATT. We view his appointment to Bangkok as another example of the PRC's emphasis on putting top-flight staff into their embassy here.

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